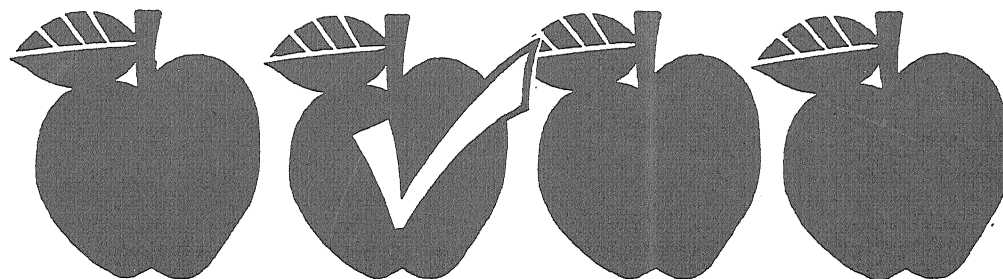




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# CHOOSING BETTER SCHOOLS

## REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETINGS ON CHOICE IN EDUCATION

🍏 EAST HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY  
🍏 MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
🍏 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA  
🍏 DENVER, COLORADO  
🍏 RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 16-17  
OCTOBER 23-24  
NOVEMBER  
NOVEMBER  
NOV



## CHOICE: CATALYST FOR REFORM

"It's time for a second great wave of education reform.... Choice plans ... give schools a chance to distinguish themselves from one another, and a chance to compete for and earn the loyalty of the students and families they serve. And choice plans work."

George Bush, January 10, 1989



"It's not enough to deplore the situation or to blame it on a supposed lack of money. We already spend more on our students than any major industrialized country in the world.... I believe that we can no longer patch, adjust, tinker, and complain. It is time to act. The solution is restructuring and the catalyst is choice."

Lauro F. Cavazos, May 19, 1989

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"We must remember who is ultimately responsible for children. Now is the time to empower parents.... Choice is the key."

Governor Rudy Perpich



"We propose an idea in the great American tradition: you can increase excellence by increasing choice."

National Governors' Association,  
*Time for Results*, 1986

"To be successful, the new agenda for school reform must be driven by competition and market discipline.... the objective should be clear from the outset: complete restructuring.... The public schools must change if they are to survive."

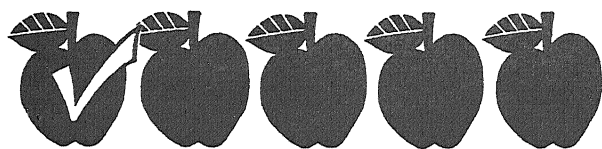
David Kearns and Denis Doyle,  
*Winning the Brain Race*, 1988



"Parental choice can provide the catalyst for educational reform by introducing a market mechanism to the public educational system."

Sy Fliegel, former administrator,  
East Harlem District 4

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**EAST HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY  
REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING  
October 16 - 17, 1989**

The Northeast Regional Strategy Meeting meeting will be held in New York City, where community School District 4 in East Harlem is proof that choice can work. District 4 has achieved national recognition by establishing schools of choice and creating an outstanding environment of parental involvement and student achievement. East Harlem, one of the poorest areas in New York City, with ninety-six percent minority students, introduced choice because its schools were failing. As a result, its schools were restructured, students' academic performance dramatically improved, and students from the rest of the city were attracted into East Harlem's schools. Before the institution of choice reforms, less than 15 percent of the students in the district were reading at their grade level, and it ranked 32nd out of 32 districts in reading and math. Since the adoption of choice, more than 63 percent of the students read at or above grade level, and the number of youngsters from District 4 being accepted into New York City's prestigious, selective high schools has risen from 10 to 250.

In the Northeast region of the United States, there are numerous choice initiatives. The Governor of New Jersey has proposed a plan that includes three voluntary three-year open enrollment pilot projects. Massachusetts has an extensive system of magnet schools in Cambridge and other cities, with strong state support, and the legislature has been considering an interdistrict choice plan. Boston is implementing a new controlled choice plan. Vermont offers families in many towns the choice of public or private schools. Rhode Island and Maine offer limited postsecondary options. In Pennsylvania, a recent poll shows support (63%) for allowing parents to send their children to the public school of their choice. In many states in this region, local districts offer magnet schools.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** The meeting officially begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, and ends at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17. Community School District 4 will also host optional events.

**Monday, October 16**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Public School 117: Optional site visits to selected schools of choice arranged by Community School District 4. Buses leave the Sheraton starting at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate on the registration form if you want to visit the schools.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sheraton Centre Hotel: Registration

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Public School 117:\* Reception

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Public School 117: Parents Speak Out On Choice

**Tuesday, October 17**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Manhattan Center School:\* Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Manhattan Center School: Plenary Sessions and Breakout Groups

4:45 p.m. Official Adjournment

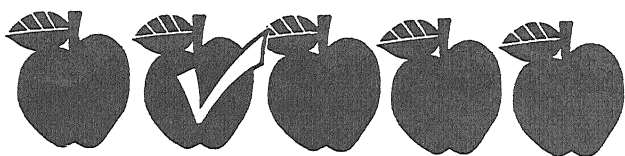
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Informal Discussion with Governors and Other Leaders

**LODGING:** The Sheraton Centre Hotel and Towers has set aside a block of rooms for the New York meeting. If you wish to reserve a room, please call 1-800-223-6550 and specify that you are attending the Regional Strategy Meeting on Choice. As is the normal practice for this type of event, the Sheraton is offering a special rate.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation from the New York Airports to the Sheraton Centre Hotel is available via express bus service (every 15-20 minutes), taxi, or rental car.

\*Transportation will be provided from the Sheraton to the official meeting sites.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION.**



**MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING  
October 23-24, 1989**

The Midwest Regional Strategy Meeting on Choice will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, in the heart of the largest statewide choice program in the United States. Minnesota's program allows parents and students to choose courses of study which best fit individual needs and interests.

Options offered by Minnesota to families include: *postsecondary enrollment option*, which gives 11th- and 12th-graders the opportunity to attend postsecondary institutions; *high school graduation incentives*, which permit students 12 years through adult who have dropped out, or are in danger of dropping out, the option of choosing alternative educational programs to earn a high school diploma; *area learning centers*, which provide year-round individualized education programs, on a full- or part-time basis, for students 12 years through adult; *school district enrollment option—open enrollment*, allows K-12 students throughout the state to attend public schools outside their resident districts. Open enrollment has been phased in over three years. Local districts also offer *magnet schools*. In addition, Minnesota has a *tuition tax deduction plan*, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983, that assists parents of private and public school students.

There are many choice programs being considered in the Midwest. Iowa recently enacted open enrollment which allows parents to send children to any public school, beginning with the 1990-91 school year. Ohio recently enacted legislation which will phase in open enrollment, and the Michigan Senate passed a bill which would have given expanded intradistrict open enrollment. The Governor of Wisconsin this year proposed legislation on choice, and the Illinois State Board of Education is studying statewide choice. In Kansas City, minority students have asked the Federal court to permit choice of private or public schools to overcome segregation in schools. In Indiana, choice proposals are being developed for the new legislative session.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** The meeting officially begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23, and ends at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24. The State of Minnesota and Minnesota Business Partnership companies will also host optional events before and after the official gatherings.

**Monday, October 23**

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Radisson Hotel St. Paul: Registration, Reception, and Student Presentations of Choice Programs in Minnesota

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. St. Paul Central High School:\* Parents Speak Out on Choice

**Tuesday, October 24**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Minneapolis North Community High School:\* Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Plenary Sessions and Breakout Groups

4:45 p.m. Official Adjournment

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Informal Discussions with Governors and Other Leaders

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Reception in St. Paul\*

**Wednesday, October 25**

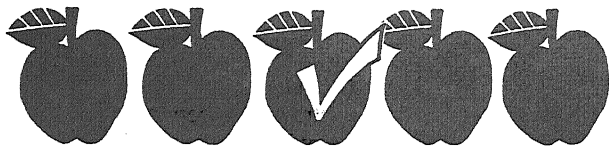
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Optional visits to selected schools of choice arranged by the Minnesota Department of Education. Buses depart the Radisson Hotel St. Paul at 8:30 a.m. Please indicate on the registration form if you want to visit the schools.

**LODGING:** The Radisson Hotel St. Paul (1-612-292-1900) and The Saint Paul Hotel (1-800-292-9292) have set aside rooms for the Minnesota meeting. If you wish to reserve a room at one of these hotels, please call and specify that you are attending the Regional Meeting on Choice. As is the normal practice for this event, the Radisson and the Saint Paul offer special rates.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Minneapolis/St. Paul via express rental car,

\*Transportation to St. Paul area

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** UPON REQUEST



**CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA  
REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING  
November 13-14, 1989**

Charlotte, North Carolina, will host the Southern Regional Strategy Meeting. Like other areas of the country, the South is experimenting with educational reforms. For example, Arkansas is one of four states in 1989 to adopt statewide open enrollment. Statewide or regional specialty magnet schools are found in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Florida and Louisiana offer statewide postsecondary options. As a local option, magnet or alternative schools are located in every southern state.

With strong community support, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system has created schools of choice that offer traditional or open classrooms, a school within a school, a school with before school and after school day care, college enrollment for high school seniors, and an alternative school for pregnant students. Four new schools within schools begin in September 1989. The Charlotte business community and the school system will initiate a Business Academy as one of its schools within schools programs. As with other parts of the South, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is studying additional ways of implementing choice.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** The meeting officially begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13, and ends at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system and the Charlotte business community will also host optional events before and after the official gatherings.

**Monday, November 13**

- 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Radisson Plaza Hotel:  
Registration and Welcome Buffet
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. West Charlotte High School:\*  
Parents Speak Out on Choice

**Tuesday, November 14**

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Charlotte Radisson Plaza Hotel:  
Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Plenary Sessions and Breakout  
Groups
- 4:45 p.m. Official Adjournment
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Informal Discussions with  
Governors and Other Leaders
- 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Reception at Discovery Place\*

**Wednesday, November 15**

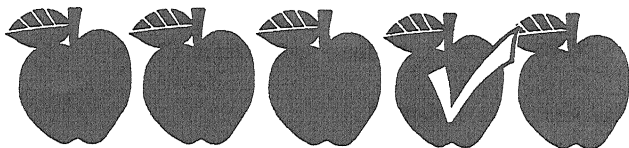
- 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Optional visits to selected  
schools of choice arranged by  
the Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
School System. Buses depart the  
Radisson Plaza Hotel at  
8:30 a.m. Please indicate on the  
registration form if you want to  
visit the schools.

**LODGING:** The Radisson Plaza Hotel (1-800-333-3333), the Adam's Mark Hotel (1-800-231-4100), the Compri Hotel Charlotte/Uptown (1-800-426-6774), and the Days Hotel-Charlotte/Uptown (1-800-325-2525) have set aside rooms for the Charlotte meeting. If you wish to reserve a room at one of these hotels, please call directly and specify that you are attending the Regional Strategy Meeting on Choice. As is the normal practice for this type of event, these hotels are offering special rates.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation from the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport to the hotels is available by hotel courtesy bus, taxi, or rental car.

\*Transportation will be provided from the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED  
UPON REGISTRATION.**



**DENVER, COLORADO  
REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING  
November 16 - 17, 1989**

The Southwest/Rocky Mountain Regional Strategy Meeting on choice will be held in Denver, Colorado. In this region of the United States, choice has been the focus of much discussion and activity as a means of improving schools and involving families. The Colorado Legislature has considered statewide open enrollment proposals and citizens have proposed referenda on choice. Colorado allows at-risk students to transfer to an alternative public school anywhere in the state, and juniors and seniors at public high schools may attend public postsecondary institutions.

Elsewhere in the region, Nebraska is one of four states to adopt statewide open enrollment plans this year. Montana and Oklahoma have introduced statewide plans, while New Mexico considered a choice bill during this past legislative session. Recently, Idaho has adopted legislation to allow funding for local districts to start alternative schools. In Texas, the legislature has considered a variety of choice options. Utah allows students to take postsecondary courses with some State reimbursement, and some districts offer alternate schools. Local districts in most states in the region offer magnet and/or alternative school programs.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** The meeting officially begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, and ends at 4:45 p.m. on Friday, November 17.

**Thursday, November 16**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Registry Hotel: Registration and Welcoming Reception  |
| 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. | Transportation provided to George Washington School   |
| 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | George Washington School: Parents Speak Out On Choice |

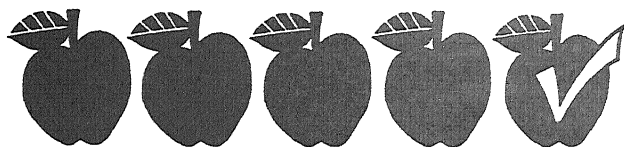
**Friday, November 17**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Registry Hotel: Registration and Coffee               |
| 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. | Registry Hotel: Plenary Sessions and Breakout Groups  |
| 4:45 p.m.             | Official Adjournment                                  |
| 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Informal Discussions with Governors and Other Leaders |

**LODGING:** The Registry Hotel is the host hotel for the Denver meeting. For reservations call 1-800-325-6064 and specify that you are attending the Regional Strategy Meeting on Choice. As is the normal practice for this type of event, The Registry Hotel is offering special rates.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Complimentary shuttle bus service is available from Denver Stapleton Airport to the Registry Hotel.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION.**



**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING  
November 28-29, 1989**

Richmond, California, situated on San Francisco Bay just north of Oakland and Berkeley, is the site of the Western Regional Strategy Meeting. This final meeting will give participants an opportunity to discuss and observe choice in a city that has rapidly implemented this reform.

Richmond adopted "A System for Choice" in 1987 to deal with high suspension levels, high dropout/truancy rates, and low student achievement. This program encourages families to choose where and what their children will learn, allowing students to attend schools best suited to their needs. As of September 1989, 48 of Richmond's 50 schools have become specialty schools of choice. The System for Choice gives all students a core of traditional academic disciplines, and supplements them with a wide selection of educational approaches. Choices offered include Gifted and Talented, International Studies, Futures Studies, Classical Studies, University Laboratory, Montessori, and Whole Language. The district is the first in California to implement this approach to learning at all schools in the district.

In the West, a variety of choice programs are in place, being planned, or under consideration. Arizona has a postsecondary options program. California has several existing choice options such as schools within schools; and the legislature is currently considering a variety of proposals to expand choice. Washington provides limited open enrollment as an option for students who have dropped out, or are in danger of dropping out; funds private, nonsectarian educational clinics for students who have not succeeded in public schools; and is considering additional choice legislation. Oregon allows students who have not succeeded in public schools to attend other public or private nonsectarian schools. In addition, Oregon has a variety of magnet schools and in Eugene, which offers open enrollment, parents are involved in the creation of new schools offering particular themes. Alaska offers support to parents educating their children at home, and magnet and alternative schools are available in most of the west.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** The meeting officially begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28, and ends at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29. The Richmond Unified School District and local corporate sponsors will host optional events before and after the official gatherings.

**Tuesday, November 28**

3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mira Vista Country Club:\*  
Registration and Welcome Buffet

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. John F. Kennedy High School:\*  
Parents Speak Out on Choice

**Wednesday, November 29**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Richmond Memorial  
Auditorium:\*  
Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Plenary Sessions and Breakout  
Groups

4:45 p.m. Official Adjournment

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Informal Discussions with  
Governors and Other Leaders

6:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Reception and Entertainment by  
Students

**Thursday, November 30**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Optional site visits to schools  
and workshops hosted by the  
Richmond Unified School  
District. District personnel will  
be available for further ques-  
tions and discussions. Please  
indicate on the registration form  
if you want to visit the schools.

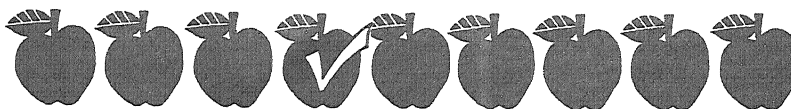
**LODGING:** The Marriott Berkeley Marina (1-415-548-7920), The San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge Holiday Inn in Emeryville (1-415-658-9300) and The Days Hotel Richmond/Hilltop (1-415-262-0700), have set aside rooms for the Richmond meeting. If you wish to reserve a room at one of these hotels, please call directly and specify that you are attending the Regional Strategy Meeting on Choice. As is the normal practice for this type of event, these hotels are offering special rates.

The Richmond Unified School District invites participants to stay with local families during the meeting. Host families will provide their guests with accommodations and transportation, as well as first-hand information on their experiences with the System for Choice in Richmond. If you would like to stay with a host family in Richmond, please call 1-415-234-3825, Ext. 2092.

**TRANSPORTATION:** San Francisco International Airport and Oakland Airport both serve Richmond. Amtrak service is also available.

\*Transportation will be provided.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED  
UPON REGISTRATION.**



## REGISTRATION FORM

### REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETINGS ON CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the following Regional Strategy Meeting (please check one):

Meeting Site	Meeting Date	Registration Due
_____ East Harlem, NYC	October 16-17	September 25
_____ Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	October 23-24	October 2
_____ Charlotte, NC	November 13-14	October 16
_____ Denver, CO	November 16-17	October 19
_____ Richmond, CA	November 28-29	October 30

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No For persons attending East Harlem, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Charlotte, or Richmond meetings:  
I plan to participate in the school site visits, as described in the meeting information.

Please check the three topics on choice in education that are of most interest to you:

_____ Parent information and involvement	_____ Resistance to choice
_____ Creating distinctive schools	_____ Funding
_____ Choice and minority students/racial balance	_____ Role of governors and legislators
_____ Types of choice	_____ Role of school boards
_____ Choice and disadvantaged/at-risk students	_____ Role of business
_____ Choice and rural schools	_____ State and local roles
_____ Choice and transportation	_____ Implementing a system of choice
_____ Curriculum/staff development	_____ Working with the educational establishment
_____ Research on choice	_____ Student concerns and attitudes
_____ Teachers and choice	_____ Facility needs
_____ Private schools	_____ Alternative education
	_____ Other(s) _____

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** Please advise us if you need additional accommodations to make this meeting accessible (such as interpreters for deaf persons, readers for blind persons or provisions for physical accessibility).

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AS SPACE IS LIMITED.** Those who have not pre-registered will be accommodated only if space is available. Mail this registration form in the enclosed envelope to the U.S. Department of Education, Regional Strategy Meetings on Choice in Education, Box 0875, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-0875. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Linda Varner Mount on 1-202-732-4039.